Legislative Counsel

FEB 21 Sed

Chief, Management Staff

H. R. 3755

- 1. This proposed amendment to the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 broadens the emergency disposal powers of heads of Federal agencies presently contained in the Records Disposal Act of 7 July 1943 (57 Stat. 380-383; 59 Stat. 434) by permitting emergency destruction of records within the continental limits of the United States. At present, the legal right to perform such destruction is limited to records outside the territorial limits of the United States.
- 2. Under present world conditions, it is highly desirable that government officials be legally empowered to order the destruction of sensitive records in times of emergency at home as well as abroad. The provisions of the proposed bill in no way conflict with the records management program conducted by this Agency.

Hann's

JOHN E. O'GARA

15 February 1955

Memorandum for: Chief, Management Staff

Subject: H.R. 3755

Pursuant to our telephone conversation, attached herewith is a copy of H.R. 2755 regarding the destruction of records.

Congressman Dawson, Chairman of the House Committee on Government Operations, to which Committee this bill has been referred, has requested the Director's comments as promptly as possible. I would, therefore, appreciate it if you could return your comments to me as soon as possible as I will have to submit our draft reply to the Bureau of the Budget for concurrence prior to forwarding it to the Congress.

Walter L. Pforzheimer Legislative Counsel

Attachment

23 February 1955

The Honorable William L. Dawson Chairman Committee on Government Operations U. S. House of Representatives Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 10 February 1955, in which you requested a report from this Agency on H. R. 3755, a Bill "To amend the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949, as amended, and for other purposes".

This bill has been brought to the attention of appropriate members of this Agency, and we will again be in touch with you as soon as our comments have been prepared.

Sincerely yours,

Walter I. Pforzheimer Legislative Counsel

OGC:WLP/blc
Orig. - Add.
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